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ABSTRACT

During 1993-94, the U.S. Congress passed several initiatives that offer great potential for facilitating progress in education. These include: (1) The Goals 2000: Educate America Act; (2) Individual Education Accounts; (3) the Family Involvement Initiative; (4) the Safe Schools Act (as part of Goals 2000); (5) the School-to-Work Opportunities Act; (6) the Improving America's Schools Act; (7) Expanded Head Start; and (8) National Service. This pamphlet provides information about the first six school-improvement initiatives and lists the eight National Education Goals established under Goals 2000. (LMI)

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ED 402 667

A BRIGHT NEW ERA IN EDUCATION

★ Goals 2000 ★ Safer Schools ★
★ Family Involvement ★
★ Individual Education Accounts ★
★ School-to-Work ★
★ Improving America's Schools Act ★

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U.S. Department of Education
Richard W. Riley
Secretary

1993 and 1994 will go down in history as the time when America launched a bright new era of excellence and opportunity in education.

Many groundbreaking bipartisan initiatives were passed into law. *Taken together, these programs offer the greatest potential for progress in education in over a generation.*

Students, parents, and educators will benefit from changes that improve teaching and learning, make schools safer, prepare children for productive lives and responsible citizenship, and build brighter futures for everyone at every level—from pre-school to K-12 to college and beyond.

Here's what's new:

The Goals 2000: Educate America Act provides help to local schools to focus on the basics of a quality education.

Individual Education Accounts are making the dream of a college education come true for more students and their families.

The Family Involvement Initiative is spreading the word that when parents and families take an active role in education, children do better in school and are more disciplined.

Schools will be safer, thanks to new efforts to prevent violence, improve security, and help children make the right choices in their lives.

School-to-Work Opportunities provide greater emphasis on work-study opportunities for students not going directly on to a four-year college.

The Improving America's Schools Act revamps learning in high-poverty schools to give children and their families real hope for brighter futures.

Expanded Head Start is introducing more pre-schoolers to the adventure and promise of learning.

National Service is giving thousands of volunteers the chance to work in neighborhoods and schools and earn money for a college education.

This pamphlet will tell you more about many of these new programs. Every citizen in every community is invited to get involved — and benefit.

Education is "America's great energizer—the best change agent we can possibly have."

— President Bill Clinton

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS, CALL 1-800-USA-LEARN.

GOALS 2000: EDUCATE AMERICA ACT

Historic blueprint for quality education that supports state and community efforts to help all children reach high standards.

The Goals 2000: Educate America Act was passed with strong bipartisan support and the backing of almost every major national parent, education, and business organization. The Act establishes eight National Education Goals to guide states and communities in their efforts to improve local education.

Eleven years ago, the report "A Nation at Risk" warned of a "rising tide of mediocrity" in American education. The Goals 2000 Act marks the turning of that tide and the beginning of a new era of excellence. Goals 2000 is guided by what we have learned we must do to make education better — and it gives states and communities the tools for getting the job done.

Goals 2000 calls for high expectations and high standards for all students...better teaching and safer, more disciplined classrooms...and new family and community partnerships to build strong schools.

Recognizing that each community is the best judge of what will work for its schools, Goals 2000 reaffirms the traditional American principle of local control of education. Goals 2000 will:

Support states and communities in the development and implementation of high standards in the basic academic subjects—science, math, history, English, geography, civics and government, foreign languages, and the arts.

Encourage parents and all family members to become more involved in their children's education.

Provide resources to help schools prevent violence and restore order and discipline in the classroom.

Provide seed capital to help schools, school districts, and states to develop improvement plans.

Work to strengthen teacher training and professional development.

Support the improvement of instructional materials and encourage the use of computers and other new technologies in learning.

Produce better ways of testing and assessing student performance.

Create partnerships among educators, business people, labor, civic groups, religious organizations, and citizens to support local schools.

Develop rigorous occupational skill standards and skill certification to help students get good jobs after graduation.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT INITIATIVE

A partnership that brings together students, parents, teachers, principals, business and community groups to support greater family involvement in children's learning.

One of the eight National Education Goals calls on schools to "promote partnerships that will increase parental involvement." In support of this goal, the U.S. Department of Education has joined with more than 80 organizations in a partnership to promote greater family involvement in children's learning in school and at home.

Family participation improves students' learning at every level of education. The partnership is designed to encourage schools, businesses and communities to establish a supportive environment for family involvement; identify and publicize outstanding examples of family involvement; and provide useful information to parents and teachers.

Greater family involvement is also supported through the Improving America's Schools Act. Parents and educators in Title I schools will develop agreements—or compacts—describing their responsibilities in support of students. Title I schools will also share with parents a school profile or "report card" that describes how well the school is performing.

Under the Goals 2000 Act, parents are important participants in developing state and local plans for school improvement. The Act also provides for the establishment of a parent information resource center in each state by 1998. These centers will provide parents with important information to help their children learn.

As part of this initiative, Secretary Richard Riley has called attention to the following seven good practices that he encourages all families to pursue:

Find the time to learn together.

Set high expectations and standards to encourage children to reach their full potential.

Limit television viewing on a school night to no more than two hours.

Read together.

Make sure children take academically challenging courses and schedule daily time for homework.

Make sure children go to school every day.

Set a good example and talk directly with your children about drugs and alcohol, and about the values you want them to have.

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION ACCOUNTS
William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program

IEA's make college loans simpler to get, more affordable, easier to repay, and save taxpayers billions of dollars.

The rising cost of a college education has forced many Americans to abandon the dream of a higher education. For others, it has meant getting a loan. But many borrowers feel saddled by the large, fixed monthly repayment requirement they face in the first months after they graduate.

To solve these problems, the new Individual Education Account was created. IEA's, part of the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, will make a college education available and affordable to many young people and their families who thought college was beyond their financial reach. And they will help make repayment far more manageable. IEA's improve on the old college loan program in all these ways:

Borrowing is more direct and simpler. The current confusing and costly system of banks, guaranty agencies, secondary markets, and loan servicers often leaves students and parents bewildered in a sea of red tape and leaves taxpayers with a tab in the billions of dollars. With IEA's, borrowers receive their loans directly through their schools and make one payment to one servicer.

Affordability. Fees and interest rates have been lowered for many student loans. Reductions in fees alone will save students more than $2 billion.

Repayment choice and flexibility. Borrowers can tailor their repayment plan to match their ability to pay. That means they can start a business, do community service, or take other jobs without being burdened with a big, fixed debt early in their careers.

Refinancing is available. Borrowers can convert or consolidate their existing student loans that are in repayment. Refinancing may make more sense.

IEA's follow in the great tradition of the GI Bill, insuring that future generations of Americans will get the help they need for a top-notch college education.

For more information, call 1-800-4FED-AID.

SAFER SCHOOLS

Programs to help create safe and disciplined learning environments for our children.

No matter how good our teachers are, no matter how challenging our standards, no matter how many computers we put into schools, young people still will not be able to learn if their classrooms aren't safe. That's why safer schools and programs designed to give children positive alternatives to violence are an important part of the agenda for better education.

Under the Safe Schools Act, passed as part of Goals 2000, the Department of Education will award more than $18 million to local education agencies for violence prevention programs—including conflict resolution, peer mediation, counseling, and teacher training—and for metal detectors and security personnel.

The Gun-Free Schools Act requires the Department to terminate federal education funds to those schools that do not develop a policy for expelling for at least one year any student who brings a gun to school, subject to certain exceptions.

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act will provide nearly $500 million to communities and states for a wide variety of violence and drug prevention programs.

Many other policies have been designed to intervene in young lives and break the cycle of violence. We know that by connecting young people to learning, we offer something they can say "yes" to. Programs that will help us achieve this include:

The Improving America's Schools Act (the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act), which provides financial assistance to local education agencies to improve learning for disadvantaged children.

The School Dropout Demonstration Assistance Program that provides at-risk students with increased monitoring, family involvement, and assistance in going from one school to another.

Formula grants to state agencies to provide literacy, math, and language arts education to neglected or delinquent children in institutions or community day programs.

The Homeless Assistance Act, which provides formula grants to states to help homeless children enroll and succeed in school.

Early Childhood Education training, which authorizes grants to higher education institutions to recruit and train students for careers in youth counseling.

THE SCHOOL-TO-WORK OPPORTUNITIES ACT

Preparing students for careers and lifelong learning

The School-to-Work Opportunities Act broadens educational, career and economic opportunities for all students through local partnerships among businesses, schools, community organizations, and state and local governments.

The United States has been one of only a few industrialized nations without an organized, comprehensive system to properly train and help young people enter the workforce. Under this act, workplaces become active learning environments and employers become partners with educators to train students through paid work experiences. Schools, in turn, integrate academic and occupational learning by helping students identify career majors and challenging them to higher academic and skills standards.

Because school-to-work transitioning focuses on both academic and occupational standards, students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to pursue work, postsecondary training, or a college degree. As the international marketplace becomes more competitive, it's clear that most workers will be required to pursue some postsecondary training to keep up with technological developments in their fields.

Together, School-to-Work Opportunities and Goals 2000 provide a way to raise both academic and occupational standards.

The benefits of School-to-Work Opportunities are clear:

Students receive a meaningful high school diploma and a skill certificate recognized by employers.

Employers have access to a highly trained and versatile workforce, certified and knowledgeable.

America will have a competent, trained, and highly educated workforce capable of performing at high levels and prospering in a competitive global economy.

School-to-Work Opportunities are administered by the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor, which provide technical assistance and grants to states and communities.

For further information, contact the School-to-Work Opportunities Information Center at (202) 260-7278.

THE IMPROVING AMERICA'S SCHOOLS ACT

Redesigns the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to enhance learning for millions of children.

The Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 is designed to improve education primarily for poor and disadvantaged students.

Title I benefits more than 50,000 schools and five million children in high-poverty areas. It focuses on improving teaching and learning to help students reach high standards, and it supports extended-day programs, effective transitions from pre-school to school, greater parental participation, and schoolwide programs.

Title I programs will be developed around challenging state standards for what students should know and be able to do. Accountability is guaranteed through the use of high-quality state assessments for measuring students' progress toward these standards. These two fundamental changes in Title I—high standards and high-quality assessments—will ensure that Title I is an integral part of a school improvement effort rather than another add-on federal program.

The Act also places strong emphasis on professional development for teachers, principals, and other school staff. This is critical to providing the instruction and learning environments needed to help all students reach high standards, including those with distinctive learning needs. The new Eisenhower Professional Development program is designed to help ensure this goal.

Other key features of the Act are innovation and flexibility. It supports the development of public charter schools, which seek to replace rules-based governance with goals-based accountability. Additionally, states and school districts will be allowed to request waivers from statutory or regulatory requirements that stand in the way of effective reforms.

IASA programs recommit the nation to serving linguistically and culturally diverse students, migrant students, Indian students, and others with distinctive learning needs within the framework of comprehensive school reform.

The Act also contains the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, which provides resources and flexibility to school districts to carry out comprehensive school safety programs.

Together, the Improving America's Schools Act, the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, and the School-to-Work Opportunities Act constitute the nation's first comprehensive strategy for supporting the improvement of our education system and our children's learning. They send the clear message that all students can succeed in school and in the workplace.

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS

Established by the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, the National Education Goals provide direction and targets for local school improvement efforts.

By the year 2000...

READINESS FOR SCHOOL—All children in America will start school ready to learn.

SCHOOL COMPLETION—The high school graduation rate will increase to at least 90 percent.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND CITIZENSHIP—All students will leave grades 4, 8, and 12 having demonstrated competency over challenging subjects including English, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography, and every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in our nation's modern economy.

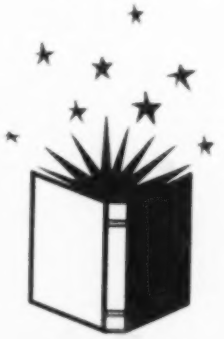
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE—U. S. students will be first in the world in mathematics and science achievement.

ADULT LITERACY AND LIFELONG LEARNING—Every adult American will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in the global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

SAFE, DISCIPLINED, AND ALCOHOL- AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS—Every school in the United States will be free of drugs, violence, and the unauthorized presence of firearms and alcohol and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning.

TEACHER EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT—The nation's teaching force will have access to programs for the continued improvement of its professional skills and the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to instruct and prepare all Americans for the next century.

PARENTAL AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT—Every school will promote partnerships that will increase parental involvement and participation in promoting the social, emotional, and academic growth of children.



GOALS
2000

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Our mission is to ensure equal access to education
and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation

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